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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. No final decision had yet been made on the type of elections scheduled to be held in East Germany in the fall of 1954. The same applies to the rumored resignation of President Wilhelm Pieck, whose state of health has slightly improved recently.
2. According to source, Minister Winkler stated that the SED party congress in Berlin had enhanced the prestige of the SED in the Zone. The minister furthermore expressed the opinion that the GDR Government would make one more effort to start negotiations with the Bonn Government on the reunification of Germany. If Bonn should refuse to negotiate with the GDR Government even after it had been given full sovereignty by the Soviets and if it should continue its present EDC policy, the GDR would then be forced to take countermeasures and to organize national armed forces in East Germany.

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